

## BELASCO'S ART SAVES "YEARS OF DISCRETION"

Unusually Fine Company Does  
Its Share by First Rate  
Acting.

### FAIR OF MIDDLE AGE

Widow and Her Husband Find  
Both Really Prefer Peace-  
ful Joys.

"Years of Discretion"—At the Belasco  
Theatre.

Christopher Dallas..... Len Harding  
Michael Doyle..... Bruce McKee  
John Strong..... Robert McWade, Jr.  
Anna Thomas..... Robert McWade, Jr.  
Parrell Howard..... Robert McWade, Jr.  
Mabel Hunsley..... Robert McWade, Jr.  
Lyn Newton..... Robert McWade, Jr.  
Grace Edmondson..... Robert McWade, Jr.

It was altogether with force that David Belasco bowed himself in the new play seen last night at the Belasco Theatre. His most notable achievements as stage manager and producer have possibly been in another field. But there is "Years of Discretion," a recent success that he found in a lighter field. The popularity of last night's play, "Years of Discretion," with a holiday audience, there was never a minute's doubt. The spectators appeared to revel alone in the broad humor provided by Mr. and Mrs. Fredric Hutton, who wrote "Years of Discretion," but in the acting of one of the most remarkable comedians that Mr. Belasco has gathered in his theatre.

Recently what Henry James has called "the middle years" have come to interest Mr. Belasco. He no longer aims at a hero, nor what is still held to be a heroine of what Oscar Wilde described as "the usual age." The feminine center of sentimental interest in "Years of Discretion" admitted that she was 48.

Of course Effie Shannon looked no such age. She is too charming ever to look that age. It would take more than any mere playwright's hypothesis to make anybody believe that she had all these years to her credit.

She did not succeed in persuading the audience last night, even when she had cast aside all the modish aids to her little fling in New York social life, that she was near so old. Until that time she had been living quietly in a Boston suburb. But there came over her the desire for one more turn in the world, which she had given up entirely when her husband died.

It was easy to make the transformation of a complete divorcee into a widow. She was a skilful coiffeur and the trick was done. The friend in whose house she stopped in New York has three suitors awaiting her. It soon lies in the transformed widow to make her choice. It was not long before she had taken one.

Then the twilight suddenly lowered. After marriage it seems to the wife as if for all there were some compensations in the older life. She is terrified at the thought of the long wedding journey around the world which she and her husband had planned. Then it has to be made in small and tight gowns and all the other pomp and circumstance of her new estate. She decided to be bold. Her husband shall be released if necessary and make the trip alone. She will stay at home and be comfortable again.

It was no use trying to keep up that metropolitan hump forever. So she confesses that it is beyond her power. He is naturally surprised. But he is delighted in accord with her ideas. He is just as much in favor of a quiet life as she is, so the play ends with a couple of a rather different kind of happiness for the two.

Mr. and Mrs. Hutton have divided their play into three acts. The first in New York showed the heroine before her conversion, later in her new incarnation. She was still the new butterfly in the second act, but in the last she returned to her Boston suburb home and to herself.

Mr. Belasco has lavished his incomparable skill on producing the play, and one might say that he had wasted some of his good actors on the task were it not for the thought of what the piece might have been but for these superior talents. The genius of Mr. Belasco and the skill of the players kept the farce comically amusing. It might have been tragedy had the proceedings on the stage borne the slightest relation to life. The heroine's constant talk about kissing in the second act made her seem pathetic at times. Her husband quite different from Wednesday's "Punching" was a real man. It was, indeed, more like the awakening of winter.

One need only recall a farce of several years ago, "The Rejuvenation of Aunt Mary," to realize what Mr. Belasco and his actors did last night in the effort to impart some kind of distinction to this play. The nature of the episode is similar. There were episodes in the second act last night which were undeniably inappropriate to the ages of the characters in the play. Possibly the real purpose was to prove that there is no fool like an old fool.

Certainly the farce will appeal to those who have passed their first youth. I will encourage them even after "Middle-aged" and prove an excellent antidote to those suffering from the drama's rather pessimistic conclusion as to the years that make one old. It is fairly possible that the real purpose of the play is serious, and that it is intended to do for middle age what "The Sluggishness of Virtue" meant to accomplish for youth.

Mr. Hutton thanked the enthusiastic audience after he and Mrs. Hutton had appeared before the curtain when the second act was over. He also thanked Mr. Belasco, but the audience had been going that fervently before the first act. When ten minutes old. Then Mr. Belasco appeared with his usual reluctance, thanked three times that historic look which wished everybody a happy New Year. He also hoped that all hands had enjoyed a merry Christmas.

## Scene in "Years of Discretion"



The actors are Effie Shannon, Lyn Harding, Bruce McKee and Herbert Kelcey.

she was not out of place in "Years of Discretion," which was all an fantastic as a Christmas pantomime. There were reminders of earlier and finer specimens of her kind when Mr. McKee and Miss Shannon revived that famous old scene at the door, "The Railroad of Love," and "Years of Discretion," but in the acting of one of the most remarkable comedians that Mr. Belasco has gathered in his theatre.

### "STOP THIEF" A LIVELY FARCE

Kleptomaniac and a Real Crook  
Amuse at the Gaiety.

"Stop Thief"—At the Gaiety Theatre.  
Joan Carr..... Ruth Chester  
Mary Carr..... Ruth Chester  
Caroline Carr..... Ruth Chester  
Madge Carr..... Ruth Chester  
William Carr..... Ruth Chester  
James Carr..... Ruth Chester  
Robert Carr..... Ruth Chester  
John Carr..... Ruth Chester  
Anna Carr..... Ruth Chester  
Parrell Carr..... Ruth Chester  
Mabel Carr..... Ruth Chester  
Lyn Carr..... Ruth Chester  
Grace Carr..... Ruth Chester

"Stop Thief," a farce of three acts, started to run on Broadway last night after a chase through the country lanes. It is by Carlyle Moore, who has written things before, but said he never felt so good at the end of any one evening in his life. The Gaiety Theatre was the scene of the New York introduction.

The farce has a psychologic basis, kleptomaniac being the theme and the reason. One regular kleptomaniac and one student in the practice put a wedding ceremony into a tangle which was straightened out satisfactorily in the end only by a regular crook and his girl.

Everything on the stage but the parlor furniture was stolen, restolen, "planted" on somebody, found, stolen and so on to the end when the curtain came down on six persons who were kneeling while an Episcopal minister made them three.

Mary Tynan as Nell, a servant girl and the fiancée of Richard Bennett, Jack Doonan, a thief, caused a deal of the trouble while Frank Bacon as William Carr, the kleptomaniac, and Percy Ames as James Clancy, his son-in-law to be and kleptomaniac tendencies, aided in the mixup.

To start with Mrs. Carr, whose daughter Madge was about to be married to the thief, the maid called her friend the thief and told him it was a ripe harvest. A ruby ring bought by the father as a wedding present disappeared and was put back by the maid. The thief appeared just as Clancy discovered he had an uncle who was a kleptomaniac and from whom he feared he had inherited the tendency if nothing else.

The real detective arrived and was sent away, while more valuables, including the detective's watch, vanished. Mr. Jamison, the owner of the bonds, dropped in with a uniformed policeman and a search warrant, which was promptly "stuffed" by the thief-detective and put in Mr. Carr's pocket. Eight thousand dollars, in separate batches of \$4,000 each, was handed around promiscuously when the maid and the thief were near detection.

Finally the search warrant turned up, the thief and his girl were unmasked and were about to be shunted off to cells when the thief broke away, held up the police with a revolver, and snatched from one of them and escaped through the drawing room window. The maid was with him, and when the family threatened to have them both arrested he pleaded, and at last declared he'd expose the family secret if he was taken. At last he told the kleptomaniacs they were not nearly as bad as they thought, which relieved them so much that they decided to be merciful.

The thief produced a marriage license for himself and the maid, which he had put in Dr. Willoughby's pocket. The doctor embraced Joan Carr, the youngest daughter, who had promised to marry him during the trouble. Clancy and Madge Carr joined them and the minister ended matters for the time being with a single ceremony for the lot.

When Florence Crabtree, 17 years old, left her home at 438 West Eighteenth street, Manhattan, on Saturday she said she was going to Jersey City to dance for a prize. Yesterday Mrs. Crabtree asked the Jersey police to find her.

## UNDERWOOD TO TALK TARIFF WITH WILSON

Their Conference Will Deter-  
mine Date of Extra Ses-  
sion, Probably.

### BILL TO BE ALL READY

Ways and Means Committee  
Will Prepare New Tariff  
Schedules by March 15.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—Chairman Underwood of the House Ways and Means Committee, who has charge of the tariff legislation at the extra session of Congress, will go to Princeton late this week to confer with President-elect Wilson. It is expected that this conference will settle the date for the extra session.

In his announcement that he would call a special session Gov. Wilson stated that Congress would be called to meet some time between March 4 and April 15. Chairman Underwood is understood to favor a date much earlier than April 15, probably about March 15. There is a difference of opinion among House leaders as to the date.

A majority of the Ways and Means Committee believes the extra session should not meet until after the committee has perfected a bill revising the tariff. The committee will begin its work immediately after the holidays and members hope to be ready to report by the time Congress meets in extra session. The leaders expect to try to close the hearing in January.

The Democratic members will begin a series of executive sessions to formulate the draft of the general tariff bill which the new Committee on Ways and Means, as it will be constituted after March 15, may take up and report to the House. It is not expected that there will be any failure on the part of the new committee to approve the work prepared for it by the present committee, because a majority of the members of the new committee will undoubtedly be made up of the present Democratic membership.

There is a sentiment among the House leaders as to whether the tariff should be revised schedule by schedule, as was done by the Democratic House, or whether a general tariff bill should be reported. It is said that William J. Bryan expressed himself in favor of revising schedule by schedule, carrying out the programme of Representative Underwood at the last session. Mr. Bryan suggested, however, that still further reductions might appropriately be made and still keep the duties on a revenue basis.

### CLARK TALKS OF WILSON VISIT.

Says What Occurred Wouldn't Make a Hallaballo if Printed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—In the midst of Christmas decorations of evergreens Speaker Clark wished the world a Merry Christmas to-day. Speaking of the talk with President-elect Wilson in Trenton yesterday he said:

"We had a fine talk and discussed many things. Of course it is not for me to say what he told me, and even if the whole conversation was printed in full for it would not make any hallaballo. We had a good time talking about legislation and how long or short the session should be. Incidentally we had a good lunch and talked about several gentlemen who have been mentioned for certain places. Beyond that I am not at liberty to say anything."

Despatches from Trenton say that the Speaker and the Governor talked of Cabinet possibilities and that the same Governor was covered that Gov. Wilson and Mr. Bryan went over last Saturday. Gov. Wilson, it is said, made suggestions as to various men he had in mind for positions and received from Mr. Clark the Speaker's opinion as to their fitness and ability.

Stabbed With Ice Pick; Friend Fled.  
Following a quarrel with a fellow countryman on Franklin street, in Long Island City, Joseph Istano, 19 years old, of 240 Franklin street, in St. John's Hospital, Long Island City, with a stab wound in his left side, made the police say, with an ice pick. The police are searching for Gabriel Spadose, who also lives in Franklin street.

## CONGRESSMEN GIVE SULZER A PUNCH BOWL

New York State Members Say  
Kind Words to the Gover-  
nor-elect Too.

### HE PICKS LEGAL ADVISER

Message to Legislature May  
Suggest Incorporation of  
Stock Exchange.

Most of the members of Congress from New York State went to the house of William Sulzer at 175 Second avenue yesterday afternoon carrying what Mr. Sulzer described later as "the largest punch bowl I ever saw." It was a bipartisan punch bowl, and Mr. Sulzer promised the Representatives that when the reception to the members of the Legislature of New York takes place next January the bowl will be put to work, and that all the Congressmen may take a drink from it if they come to Albany.

Representative William M. Calder of Brooklyn made the speech for the Republican members, and Representative James J. Fitzgerald spoke for Mr. Sulzer's Democratic colleagues. They told in what extent they held him and how much they regretted that he will not be in the House next year.

On the solid silver flanks of the bowl was engraved this inscription:

Presented to the Hon. William Sulzer upon his retirement from the House of Representatives after a continuous service of eighteen years by his colleagues in the New York delegation as a memorial of his long, faithful, and patriotic service to the State of New York and the country.

Mr. Sulzer accepted the bowl with a speech, in which he declared himself in the debt of the other Congressmen for something which showed that they cared for him. Then he promised that the bowl would be used for the reception to the members of the Legislature and for the use of the New York Congressmen if they would come to the reception.

Aside from the visit of the Congressmen the Governor-elect spent a quiet day. He had Christmas dinner with his family and his mother was in the party at the table. He carved a turkey which a friend had sent to him.

After the callers went Mr. Sulzer was asked some recommendations for which it is understood he will include in his message to the Legislature. One is a provision for a direct primaries bill. "I don't want to discuss the message yet," he said. "To people will know about it in less than ten days."

"Don't you want to let them get to thinking about it, Mr. Sulzer?" he was asked.

"I'd rather have them find out when the message is delivered," he said. "They will have plenty of time then."

Another recommendation which Mr. Sulzer's friends say he intends to propose to the Legislature has to do with the incorporation of the New York Stock Exchange. His friends say that he will ask for the appointment of a commission to look into the business of the exchange and report upon the wisdom of a law enforcing its incorporation.

"What about the incorporation of the Stock Exchange?" he was asked.

"I don't want to say anything about that or about other measures which I intend to recommend to the Legislature," said Mr. Sulzer.

Governor-elect Sulzer has selected his legal adviser, but was not ready to give out his name.

Immediately after taking office Gov. Sulzer will have the appointment of a Superintendent of Public Works to succeed Duncan W. Peck of Syracuse, a State Health Commissioner in place of Dr. Eugene H. Porter of New York, a Highway Commissioner in place of C. Gordon Reel of Kingston, and a State Tax Commissioner to succeed Benjamin E. Hall of New York.

Gov. Sulzer also has the immediate appointment of a State Labor Commissioner to succeed John Williams of Utica. John Bogart of New York, it is said, is in the van in the fight for the job.

Democratic State Committee member Kelly of Syracuse has asked Mr. Sulzer to reappoint Mr. Peck, and the best information obtainable yesterday was that Mr. Kelly has won.

Gov. Sulzer is not to reappoint Mr. Reel, according to reliable information. There are a dozen candidates to succeed Mr. Hall in the Tax Board.

### HELD AS POLICEMAN'S SLAYER.

Prisoner in Chicago Suspected of Being One of Newark Gunmen.

Frank Noonan, who is suspected of being one of the three gunmen who shot and killed Patrolman John J. Gaffney in Newark on December 6, is under arrest in Chicago and Detective Ryan, who was with Gaffney when he was killed, has started for Chicago with Detective Harris to see if they can identify the prisoner.

Noonan's arrest followed on information given to the Newark police by the Newark Police Department, which had been under the surveillance of New York detectives and it is said that they were traced to Newark. Detective Ryan identified photographs of the three gunmen in the New York rogues' gallery.

### DINNER READY; HUSBAND DEAD.

Mrs. Sturgis Called Spouse in Vain to Christmas Feast.

FREDERICK LOESER & CO.

BROOKLYN ADVERTISEMENTS.

FREDERICK LOESER & CO.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

## The Annual Loeser White Sale

begins this morning and offers tremendous stocks of new, well made and desirable

Undermuslins, Waists, Corsets, Linens,  
Sheets and Other White Goods  
At Record Low Prices

Whether you have read the details of the Sale published on previous days or not,

Be Sure to Come This Morning!

There has never before been so important a money-saving sale of this character in Brooklyn. The stocks are so comprehensive that practically every need may be filled at a large saving.

Fulton Street  
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### SNOWBALLING STARTS RIOT.

Mothers of Mischievous Boys Cut in  
Williamsburg Meler.

Mischievous boys were responsible for a riot yesterday afternoon near a public school at Kean and South Second streets, Williamsburg. More than a dozen persons, among them women, were injured and two ambulances had to be called.

The boys started the trouble soon after noon by snowballing pedestrians and automobiles in the new Grand Street extension, directly opposite the school. When Walter Meyer, a tinsmith of 146 Ten Eyck street, came along leading a horse to the boarding stable of Harry Greenberg he and the animal were pelted. The horse reared and plunged and while Meyer was trying to control him he fell. Meyer's mother, Mrs. Catherine Meyer, who lives at 225 South Third street and who had been following her son from his house, went to his assistance.

The boys continued the attack. Harry Greenberg and his nineteen-year-old son William set out to capture them. Several boys whom the Greensbergs seized were being yanked by them toward the stable when their mothers rushed to the rescue.

The windows of the stable were smashed. Somebody had a knife and slashed several persons. Word reached the Bedford avenue police station by telephone that a riot was in progress and that more than a dozen persons had been badly hurt.

Lieut. Kelly hustled out the reserves, but before they reached the scene Policeman Polsky fought his way through a crowd of 1,000 and made peace by main strength.

Mrs. Meyer had cuts on her hands, wrists and face. Mrs. Mary Martin of 366 South Third street had a scalp wound and cuts on her wrists. Mrs. Lucille R. Bell was married yesterday at the bride's home, 82 McDonough street, Brooklyn, at the bedside of the young man.

Aponte was operated on at the Brooklyn Hospital a few days ago for appendicitis and is convalescing. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Philip Clifford, pastor of the Clermont Avenue Dutch Reformed Church.

The husband is employed by Walker & Co., a large exporting and importing house at 82 Pine street, Manhattan, and it was there that he met the brother of the bride. The two men became friends and Aponte was invited to come to live at the Bell home. There he met his bride, who is only 15 years of age.

They became engaged about three months ago. They had planned to have a Christmas wedding, and when the husband was taken ill with appendicitis the fear that his fiancée was to be disappointed was one of the things which worked against his speedy recovery.

The surgeons at the hospital on learning what the trouble was advocated that the plan of the young people should be carried out and the bedside wedding was the result.

During the ceremony the bridegroom, who has not been out of bed save for the trip on a stretcher from the hospital to his bride's home, was dropped up by pillows.

Aponte as a lieutenant served both in Porto and in Madrid. He came to Brooklyn about five years ago. The bride is a graduate of the Girls' High School.

### Shot by Noley Man He Ordered Away

Frank Lapetagno, 38 years old, of 63 Myrtle avenue, Corona Heights, is in a critical condition in the Flushing Hospital with a bullet wound in the abdomen. He says he told an intoxicated Italian who was shouting in front of his home last night to move away and the man shot him and then fled.

## BOWERY HAS TURKEY WITH BIG TIM ABSENT

Five Thousand Feasted, and the  
Sullivan Lieutenants  
Were Hosts.

### SPEECHES WERE POINTED

Orators Said the Big Fellow  
Wished His Guests a Merry  
Christmas.

Big Tim Sullivan, who is getting over a nervous breakdown at Larry Mulligan's country place, Riverside, Conn., wasn't at his annual dinner to the men of the Bowery yesterday, but he ate his satisfaction of knowing while he ate his own that he was host to as many hungry fellows as in any year past. The big room of the T. D. Sullivan Association at 207 Bowery held 5,000 feasters, first and last, which is about all the clearest manager could feed working from 11 in the morning till 5 in the afternoon with room for only 200 at a time.

Everybody went cheerfully into the fourth speed from Johnny Fitzgerald, first assistant deputy host, to the waiters who cleared tables fifty whisks to the minute. The formal knives and forks into place. Seidels sank in ringing tubs and emerged from that corner of the room a minute later foaming wonderfully at the mouth. The near half of the line that stood a block north and south outside the building filtered up the stairs and began upon the turkey without ceremony. Sometimes a New Englander among them elected to eat his pie first. Nobody minded. The only caution all day long was uttered by the orchestra which pleaded with the men to "Keep Away From the Man Who Owns an Automobile."

Everybody but Tim was there at one time or another. Larry Mulligan, Johnny White, Harry Applebaum, Harry Oxford, Paddy Sullivan, all stopped to see that things ran all right and to shed coats and roll up sleeves when they didn't. Not that there was the least rumour. All the guests knew, as Larry Mulligan pointed out, that at the least disturbance there'd be a riot and the guest would go out and down the stairs all steps at one time and alight on the pavement and his head simultaneously. So everybody was polite. The waiters, thrilled by an assurance beforehand that they could have all the tips, poured beer without stint. And each diner stood at his place and ate or drank to repletion.

It was a pleasant disappointment to some of the guests, who had feared from the formal invitations that there might be a touch of ceremony about the proceedings. Those invitations started "Dear Sir," and went on cordially to invite Sandy, Bill and Shorty to the meal. Sandy, Bill and Shorty scratching their heads had wondered for a minute if they should R. S. V. P. But the word from the big fellow said that the grub and manner of going to it would be just the same as ever. So the invited put the card in the pocket that didn't have a hole and fingered it thoughtfully until he came to the head of the line.

Senator Fitzgerald and Congressman Jefferson Levy addressed some of the tables and others associated with Big Tim did the other speechmaking. All

### HIT BY TRAIN BEFORE FAMILY.

Hartford Man Killed Returning Home After Christmas Dinner.

HARTFORD, Dec. 25.—While returning with his wife and children from a Christmas Day dinner and celebration George Houghaling of 1094 Main street, a stock clerk, was struck by a local New Britain train and instantly killed to-night at the Hamilton street grade crossing of the New Haven railroad on the outskirts of this city.

Houghaling was slightly in advance of his family as they approached the unprotected grade crossing, toward the elimination of which efforts have been directed for some time. Houghaling's body was hurled twenty feet into a lot

of it was of a kind—very short and hearty. Congressman Timothy D. Sullivan wished all present a merry Christmas, and when every man had had his fill he would pass out to the right and receive a pipe and a paper of tobacco and a ticket for a pair of shoes and two pair of socks. That was all the speech. The speech would get as far as naming the host and then:

"God bless him!" followed by a cheer, would make the orator pause. There was always another cheer for the pipe, tobacco and ticket for shoes and socks. The shoes and socks will be distributed on February 6, for that is the anniversary of a time when Big Tim needed a pair himself—needed them awfully bad for a youngster, too.

### WOMAN ROUTS "BAD MAN" OF 16.

Tough Demands Money, but Gets a Four Pound Weight.

The Newark police are looking for a would-be "bad man" about 16 years old who entered a little store kept by Mrs. Israel Retig at 29 Hillside place late Tuesday night and with a revolver in hand commanded her to throw up her hands and turn over her money.

Instead of complying Mrs. Retig shied a four pound weight at the young tough's head. He ducked it, and as he fled through the door into the street he fired a shot into the air, evidently fearing the woman was pursuing him. He escaped empty handed.

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